

OSU Extension's Small Farm Program - New Faces on Old Places



Purpose

The agricultural landscape is changing. Farms today are fewer in number and growing in acreage. However, a rapidly growing group, the “Small Farmer” are practicing agriculture on a smaller scale. These farmers are many times new to agriculture and are looking for a different lifestyle. Our mission is to provide greater understanding of production practices, economics of land use choices, assessment of personal and natural resources, marketing alternatives, and identification of sources of assistance.

Impact

Improved the economic development of small family owned farms in Ohio. Eighty-eight percent not yet engaged in farming, indicated they were planning to start their operation within the next year.

Helped small farmers diversify opportunities into new enterprises and markets. Twenty-two percent of respondents indicated they would increase production by adding acreage and 32% added livestock into their operation.

Improved agricultural literacy among small farmers not actively in production. Ninety percent of respondents indicated they learned something new and 64% of respondents indicated this was their first Extension program.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences/
Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H

Family and Consumer Sciences
Multiple Extension Educators and University Specialists

Community Partners Involved

USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farm Service Agency

APHIS

U.S. Department of Ag Statistics

Farm Bureau

Farm Credit Services

Local Ag businesses

Contact

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[http://agmr.osu.edu/
small-farm-programs](http://agmr.osu.edu/small-farm-programs)



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